

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
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1 letter.

2 I want to stress, again, ICAPCD believes there
3 should be mitigation measures implemented to offset the
4 increased emissions and these measures should be
5 memorialized in the presidential permits and ensure that the
6 off-site mitigation measures take place here in Imperial
7 County.

8 To close, we look forward to reviewing a much more
9 sound final EIS that will fully address all of our concerns
10 as outlined in our formal response letter. For the health
11 of the residents of Imperial/Mexicali Valleys and for the
12 continued efforts to improve air quality in Imperial County,
13 we insist that full mitigation of the impacts of these
14 projects be fully mitigated, including placing provisions in
15 the presidential permits for monitoring, recordkeeping and
16 enforcement provisions based on our experience with
17 Interger's failure to install SCR on one of the two
18 turbines, as Joe mentioned earlier; and the fact that
19 Mexicali authorities were, apparently, unaware that Interger
20 had even had an obligation to install and operate SCR on the
21 unit. The permit conditions must clearly state that
22 monitoring data should be supplied to the EPA and the
23 ICAPCD.

24 For issuance of the presidential permits, we urge
25 DOE to implement a version of Alternative No. 4 that would

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EC03-6
(cont.)

Document EC04

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1 require full mitigation and offset of all emissions and that
2 these offsets take place in Imperial County.

3 Thanks for your time.

4 MR. ANTHONY COMO: Thank you.

5 Mr. Robert Ham.

6 MR. ROBERT HAM: Good morning. My name is Robert
7 Ham, H-A-M. I serve as the executive director for the
8 Imperial Valley Association of Governments.

9 I want to begin by telling you that it isn't the
10 intent of the people in Imperial Valley to deprive the
11 coastal cities of badly needed power. It is our intention
12 to ensure that some sense of environmental justice prevails
13 in this process.

14 When DOE was last here for scoping meetings,
15 several of our elected officials spoke to you and urged the
16 adoption of Alternative 4 in the interest of seeking
17 environmental justice. We presented a strong rationale for
18 adopting this position.

19 We have documented that, but for these
20 transmission lines, the power plants would not have a market
21 and, therefore, would not operate. Accordingly, you must
22 consider the operation of the power plants and their
23 resulting emissions as part of the project you are
24 reviewing.

25 Because we live in an area that is considered

EC03-6
(cont.)

EC04-1

EC04-2

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EC04-4

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1 nonattainment for a number of pollutants, a condition that
2 will only be exacerbated by the operation of the power
3 plants, the DOE must consider requiring mitigation for the
4 added pollutants in our air as a result of this project.
5 Environmental justice considerations would necessitate that
6 you order full mitigation for the added pollution in
7 Imperial County and in the Mexicali community.
8 Had these plants been built three miles to the
9 north, state and federal environmental law would have
10 required that the emissions resulting from the plants be
11 fully mitigated before the first kilowatt was ever produced.
12 There's numerous so-called scientific assumptions
13 in your draft report that use such tortured logic as to defy
14 any sense of reality. The technical experts from the ICAPCD
15 will take you on a step-by-step tour of these attempts to
16 twist and bend information and facts to achieve a
17 predetermined answer. This self-serving study completely
18 ignores Judge Gonzalez's order to perform a truly unbiased
19 review of the environmental impacts of this project.
20 In conclusion, the economic development future,
21 not to mention the immediate health of our residents,
22 depends on you coming to the conclusion that the impacts of
23 this project must be fully mitigated by the acquisition of
24 pollution offsets.
25 We would further encourage you to ensure that any

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EC04-4
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Document EC05

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1 such mitigation offsets be measurable, enforceable and
2 preferably located in the United States portion of the
3 shared air basin. Any offsets that are obtained in Mexico
4 should be subject to inspection and verification by the
5 ICAPCD.
6 Thank you.
7 MR. ANTHONY COMO: Thank you, Mr. Ham.
8 Mr. Frank Popejoy.
9 MR. FRANK POPEJOY: Frank Popejoy, P-O-P-E-J-O-Y,
10 concerned citizen and president of the El Centro Chamber of
11 Commerce.
12 I have been following this and I have been before
13 you before and received the book. Read it. Went through,
14 not understanding everything, but trying to figure out, it
15 just goes around in circles, on how they are addressing the
16 different issues.
17 And having lived here for 57 years, looking to the
18 west and seeing what we are getting from Riverside County
19 coming in through the mountains with the pollution and the
20 red air that comes in through there. Watching and growing
21 up in the Mexicali valley with their open fires and cooking,
22 and the problems we've had there for years. We can't stop
23 that at the border.
24 And then to think that I sit on the Energy
25 Consumer Advisor Committee with the IID and, again, we look

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(cont.)

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1 for green energy. We are looking to clean up the valley.
2 We had other proposals. We look at hydroelectric that we
3 are trying to do. And working hard toward the environmental
4 issues and the whole time this plant was coming through.

5 We tried to deal with the gas pipeline coming
6 through. And, as others have said, they just did it anyway.
7 And they said if we don't have that, we will just burn
8 diesel. A lot of threats and innuendos and it was, like,
9 well, it doesn't matter what we say or what we are trying to
10 do here. We are trying to protect our air quality.

EC05-1

11 And our Chamber, Steve Burstoff, came and gave us
12 an overview and looked at the Calexico area, the prevailing
13 winds, the way they come from the different parts of the
14 valley, bring this all in. We are in a bowl. It stays in
15 here. It just doesn't go away. If we burn fields, whatever
16 we do, it just goes around the valley. So we have to watch
17 this bowl very carefully.

EC05-2

18 And the whole time that you are here and you go
19 before the hearings, and you try to get things done, and all
20 the things we did to get the geothermal going; and,
21 meanwhile, just like that, they put these plants over here
22 and we go through the environmental studies, do all these
23 hearing, trying to get good, clean energy going and they
24 just put these in. That's just like red flags going up all
25 over, to me. It's just happening whether we say anything or

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1 not.

2 So it's not good. You guys are aware of that. I
3 hope you get good input because the asthma rate here and
4 when you drive down Highway 98 on some days and you look
5 across the border, it's unbelievable. You know, you don't
6 have to be a rocket scientist to see what's going on. The
7 pollution is bad enough. And how you can take these facts
8 and figures and say that that doesn't make a difference,
9 when, really, we need to be cutting back, not adding to
10 this.

EC05-3
(cont.)

EC05-4

11 So that's my comments. Thank you.

12 MR. ANTHONY COMO: Thank you, Mr. Popejoy.

13 Mike Giorgino.

14 MR. MIKE GIORGINO: I have to switch glasses here,
15 I am going blind.

16 I'm Mike Giorgino, G-I-O-R-G-I-N-O, newly of
17 El Centro.

18 And I spent 20 years in the Navy, and the best
19 advice I ever got in the Navy was to tell the truth and do
20 the right thing. I went to law school and I had a professor
21 tell me that some day you are going to read these
22 complicated legal documents with a lot of bureaucratic
23 language in them and you are going to be able to see that
24 they are fascinating and interesting because they deal with
25 cases and controversies that have to do with real people and

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1 their lives.

2 In reading this environmental impact report, I
3 find it very fascinating. I think there's a great deal of
4 truth in these pages. I think it honestly tells the whole
5 story. And unlike my friend, Joe Maruca, I am not a Right
6 Wing Republican, I'm just a main stream Republican. And I
7 feel that I am qualified to gently chide the Bush
8 Administration in the way this particular issue has been
9 handled here in the valley. Because reading this report,
10 what we learn is that the presidential permits were granted
11 based upon the very, very narrow consideration of the impact
12 that those lines would have on the land that they would pass
13 through.

14 But all of the determinations about the impacts on
15 the air quality, the PM-10 emissions, the impacts on the New
16 River and the Salton Sea were not done before those
17 presidential permits were granted. Nor were Mr. Maruca and
18 the other four supervisors here briefed or brought in on the
19 process so that they could weigh in. So that they could
20 analyze this, see what the impacts would be and have their
21 say.

22 We can't allow these plants to operate unless they
23 are going to adhere to U.S. air pollution standards. It's
24 been said here already this morning that we've got to look
25 at this just as if these plants had been built here in

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1 Imperial County, Mr. Ham said that. What would the rules
2 be. What would be the requirements for mitigation. Back in
3 December of 2001, after these presidential permits had been
4 issued, the Imperial Valley County Board of Supervisors
5 voted unanimously to demand the best-available control
6 technology be installed in all of these units. The last
7 part of this resolution stated: Until such time as the
8 California best-available control technology is installed
9 and maintain on all units to reduce emissions to meet
10 California standards in order to help the health of the
11 residents in Imperial and Mexicali Valleys, they would
12 oppose these plants.

13 Now the representative from the Imperial County
14 Air Pollution District talked about the alternatives. There
15 are four alternatives laid out in this document. The first
16 alternative is: No action, deny both permit and
17 corresponding right-of-way applications.

18 The second alternative is the proposed action by
19 the Department of Energy, which is to grant one or both of
20 the permits and corresponding rights-of-way without any
21 further action on the parts of Semptra or Interger.

22 I don't think either of those first two
23 alternatives are viable or realistic. I think there's been
24 too much investment on the part of these companies to build
25 these plants down in Mexico. They are already operating.

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EC06-2
(cont.)

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1 And I don't think it's realistic to say no. But at the same
2 time, I think it's outrageous for the federal government to
3 grant these permits without them taking any mitigation
4 efforts or coming into compliance from a technology
5 standpoint so that they adhere with U.S. Air Pollution
6 Standards.

7 Now there are a third and fourth alternative
8 listed here. The third alternative is alternative
9 technologies. And we have heard two alternative
10 technologies talked about today. One is the scrubbers.
11 Now, as I followed this issue, my understanding is that
12 there has been a difference between the attitude of the two
13 companies. That the Sempra plants were designed from the
14 beginning to have the proper scrubbers and that they were
15 installed.

16 But the Intergen plants tried to get away or
17 around that requirement. There was pressure from
18 Congressman Duncan Hunter, the former representative of this
19 valley, and Senator Diane Feinstein. And then Intergen
20 agreed they would put them on, but they have still not fully
21 complied.

22 And then mitigation measures is the fourth. And
23 that would be that these plants would be granted the
24 permits, but that they would have to provide off-site
25 mitigation measures to minimize the environmental impacts.

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EC06-3
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1 What I'm here to recommend today is a combination
2 of Alternatives 3 and 4. I recommend that when you go back
3 and talk to your superiors, that what you discuss with them
4 is the idea that we have two different companies and that
5 they be decoupled from one another in the consideration.
6 They are separate transmission lines, they should be
7 separate permits and they should be treated in accordance
8 with what they are willing to do to, number one, improve
9 their techniques; and, number two, to mitigate the impact on
10 this valley.

11 Another thing that has to be done, and there could
12 be reasonable -- a reasonable time frame to come into
13 compliance, but has to be done is air water cooling for
14 these plants. What we learned in the last set of hearings
15 is that Mexico already has gas turbine plants that are
16 air-cooled. That the country of Mexico, in fact, is in the
17 forefront, since they have new plants going in, we in the
18 United States have older plants, they are in the forefront
19 of some of the newest technology in that area.

20 Mr. Maruca spoke about the terrible impact that
21 these plants will have on the air quality, especially
22 without the scrubbers. But there's another consideration,
23 and that is that this water cooling process not only will
24 lower the level of the Salton Sea, which over time could
25 increase the, you know, could and will increase the PM-10,

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1 the dust, but it also has another health effect and that is
2 it raises the temperature of what's essentially raw sewage
3 that comes into the valley through the New River. That's a
4 health hazard.

5 There's a Congressman that's talking about
6 building a park over the New River down there. I don't want
7 kids playing over heated sewage.

8 I think that we want to encourage more electrical
9 generation. I agree with the sentiment that it would be a
10 good thing if an electric power plant were built in the
11 Imperial Valley. But we have the technology to minimize the
12 air pollution effects. We have the technology, it's very
13 simple technology, to mitigate these effects, paving and
14 what have you.

15 So I call on the federal government to do the
16 right thing. You told the truth. There's a lot of truth in
17 this document. It's pretty honest. And I bring this
18 problem right back to your door, because these things were
19 not thought out when you initially granted those permits.
20 Sempra Energy and Intergen relied upon those permits to
21 proceed with what they were doing without any of this being
22 discussed with them.

23 So in conclusion, I call upon this agency and
24 President Bush to do the right thing for the people in this
25 valley. I ask you to take back with you the strongest

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EC06-4
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EC06-5

Document EC07

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1 recommendation from me that you not grant these permits
2 without requiring scrubbers, a reasonable transmission time
3 to air cooling, and complete and full mitigation for the
4 impacts on this valley.

5 Thank you.

6 MR. ANTHONY COMO: Thank you.

7 Marilouise Hurley.

8 MS. MARILUISE HURLEY: I'm Marilouise Hurly,
9 H-U-R-L-E-Y. I'm a local citizen of Imperial County. Been
10 here over 50 years. Retired from homemaking, as a
11 homemaking teacher of 37 years. And I belong to a lot of
12 organizations that are involved in Imperial County,
13 including the California Women for Agriculture, and I was
14 the chairman of the Ag in the Classroom Program teaching all
15 of our young people about agriculture. That's our main way
16 of earning a living in Imperial County. And so we need good
17 air, beautiful air for growing our crops. And we grow the
18 winter crops, the winter vegetables and we do have crops
19 that grow all year round.

20 I'm also a pilot. Have been flying for 33 years.
21 Have 3500 hours flying time and fly in Imperial Valley and
22 Mexico a great deal of the time. And since these two power
23 plants have gone into production, I see the emissions coming
24 from the plants coming into Imperial County. Even in the
25 wintertime, when we don't have the strong winds from the

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EC06-5
(cont.)

EC07-1